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MEETING WITH PRESIDENT THIEU, SEPTEMBER 28, 1972

1. Preliminary message from Dr. Kissinger reports that he met with Le Duc Tho and Xuan Thuy September 26 and 27 for a total of eleven hours. There was no significant progress and no agreements of any kind were reached. We held firm on our basic program, including political questions.

2. The other side, however, tabled still another proposal which will be transmitted immediately, but has not yet been received. I shall transmit it to you as soon as I have it for your comments and study prior to General Haig's arrival.

3. Looking to the immediate future, we see practically no possibility of a settlement between now and November unless Hanoi totally reverses its position. What we must look to now is how best to insure that we keep the situation under control and position ourselves for post-November strategy along the lines Dr. Kissinger discussed with you when last in Saigon. The purpose of General Haig's visit is to pursue our discussion of this strategy and how we propose to handle continued private talks in this context.

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E.O. 12958 Sec. 3.6
MR 95-93, #15 State ltr. 4/18/96
By KBH NARA, Date 5/9/96

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